

# South Asia Earthquake

April 28, 2006 - Update

## PROMOTING BETTER HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Even before the earthquake damaged or destroyed one-third of the homes in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, access to information about hygiene and health practices was limited. Following good health and hygiene habits was even more challenging after basic toiletries became buried under homes. "When we would tell people to cut their nails, they would ask, 'How? Our nail clipper is under rubble,'" said Qurban Ali Shah, who coordinates a USAID-funded hygiene program.

In response, USAID helped nearly 70,000 people by providing families with hygiene supplies and educating them in good health and sanitation practices. Villages identified more than 730 male and female community members to attend workshops that emphasized how to interrupt disease transmission by washing hands, preparing food safely and disposing of waste properly. In turn, they trained 15-20 families each in their communities. USAID provided hygiene kits and water storage containers to 3,000 trained households to improve their personal sanitary habits. A complementary education campaign increased hygiene awareness greatly. "We weren't aware of these things before," said Gulzar Bibi. Her



Photo: Kaukab Jhumra Smith/USAID

*A boy carries home drinking water storage containers.*

neighbor, Yasmeen, agreed, "I used to eat vegetables without washing them." Now a trained hygiene activist, Yasmeen taught 30 other women good hygiene practices. "I learned how diseases spread and how to keep things clean. This has saved our lives."



*Livelihood grants will support children like this girl.*

## FOUR GRANTS FOR EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

USAID will award four grants totaling more than \$2.8 million to help communities re-establish their communities. The grants are among the more than \$13 million that the U.S. government is investing in transition activities to help earthquake survivors rebuild their lives. Other grants are pending

The funds will support groups that are assisting survivors to get back on their feet and find ways to earn an income. Grant recipients include Concern International and the Rural Support Program Network, both non-governmental organizations that will customize their existing livelihoods programs to better meet local needs. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also received a grant to provide better maize seed to farmers to help ensure a stable food supply in the region.

In addition, USAID is providing more than \$1.5 billion in general assistance to Pakistan over the next five years to improve education, health, democracy and governance and economic growth.

## Earthquake Update Continued

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### REHABILITATION CENTER ON THE WAY



Photo: Dr. Shahnawaz

*The first patient of the rehabilitation center in Muzaffarabad, who had amputations on both legs, takes her first steps since the earthquake, assisted by physical therapist, Mr. Ata Mohammed.*

Lubna, a 40 year-old resident of Muzaffarabad had both her legs crushed in the earthquake of October 8, 2005. After she had both legs partially amputated and a long convalescence, she was transferred to a new rehabilitation facility set up in Muzaffarabad by volunteer physicians with assistance from USAID and a private family. Lubna has been fitted with prosthetic limbs and is being re-trained to walk. She is the rehabilitation center's first patient.

The center itself, located in an engineered tent provided by Creative Tent International Inc., will be inaugurated in early May. Please follow this column for details on the official inauguration of this inspiring center.

#### FAST FACTS:

##### Government of Pakistan estimates:

Death toll: 73,338  
Injured: 69,412  
Homeless: 2.8 million

##### Government of India estimates :

Death toll: 1,309  
Injured: 6,622  
Homeless: 150,000

#### U.S. Assistance as of April 28, 2006:

##### Total U.S. Government Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged: \$510,000,000

- \$110 million in U.S. military in-kind support for relief operations
- \$300 million in economic assistance
- at least \$100 million\* from U.S. private contributions

To date, USAID has provided more than \$80.5 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$6.5 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan.

As part of its overall response, USAID has provided nearly \$29.5 million in funding to the U.N. South Asia Earthquake Flash Appeal, to support transitional shelter programs, food, health, water and sanitation, humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the transport of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.

**For more information on the earthquake and USAID's work, please see "South Asia Earthquake" at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).**

#### For information on giving visit:

[www.safewinter.org](http://www.safewinter.org)

\* Actual amount of donations to date is \$151 million (Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University)